

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01274 140048Z

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INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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FOR WASHINGTON COMMERCIAL ACTION GROUP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC

SUJECT: DISCRENCIES IN STATISTICS RE U.S. EXPORTS TO ECUADOR

REF: STATE A-547

1. THE DATA FOR ECUADOR IN THE Tawe ATTACHED TO THE REFAIR, JUST RECEIVED, SHOW THAT U.S. EXPORTS TO THIS COUNTRY IN CALENDAR YEAR 7975 INCREASED 27 PERCNENT TO A TOTAL OF \$414 MILLION. HOWEVER, THE FEBRUARY 2 ISSUED OF "COMMERCE AMERICA", IN ITS REVIEW OF U.S. EXPORTS TO ECUADOR (PAGE 8), STATES THAT THESE EXPORTS INCREASED 40 PERCENT IN 1975, REACHING NEARLY \$450 MILLION". WE WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION OF THIS DISCREPANCY AND VERIFICATION OF ACTUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE AND DOLLAR FIGURE FOR U.S. EXPORTS IN 1975 AS COMPARED WITH 1974.

2. THE "COMMERCE AMERICA" ARTICLE ALSO STATES (PAGE 8), REGARDING U.S. EXPORTS TO ECUADOR, THAT "THE 1976 OUTLOOK IS FOR FAIRLY GOOD SALES INCREASES IN THE RANGE OF 20 TO 25 PERCENT". HOWEVER, ON THE PRECEDING PAGE OF THE ARTICLE (PARAGRAPH 3), IT IS STATED THAT U.S. EXPORTS TO ECUADOR IN 1976 WILL TOTAL "ABOUT \$510 MILLION, A 13 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1975". COMPOUNDING THE CONFUSION ARISING FROM THIS DISCREPANCY, A UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL DISPATCH DATED JANUARY 29 AND DATEDLINE WASHINGTON, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 QUITO 01274 140048Z

LEADING ECUADOREDC NEWSPAPERS, STATED THAT "ECUADOR OUGHT

TO INCREASE ITS IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES BY 18 PERCENT, TO A TOTAL OF \$510 MILLION" IN 1976, "THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ESTIMATED TODAY IN A DETAILED REPORT ON THE EXTERNAL TRADE OF THE COUNTRY." THE DISPATCH DID NOT FURTHER IDENTIFY THE "DETAILED REPORT". WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING (A) THE REASON FOR THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE TWO FORECASTS IN THE "COMMERCE AMERICA" ARTICLE, (B) WHICH OF THE TWO FIGURES SHOULD BE ACCEPTED, AND SOME INDICATION OF THE BASIS FOR THE FIGURE, AND (C) A COPY OF THE REPORT CITED IN THE UPI DISPATCH.

3. THE REFAIR STATES IN ITS INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH THAT ARA/ECP PLANS TO FORWARD ADDITIONAL COMMODITY-BY-COUNTRY TABLE WHEN THE U.S. FIGURES BECOME AVAILABLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THESE; BUT MUCH MORE USEFUL WOULD BE A COUNTRY-BY-COMMODITY TABLE FOR ECUADOR, PROVIDING A BREAKDOWN OF THE VARIOUS KINDS OF U.S. EXPORTS TO ECUADOR IN 1975 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS. WHEN AND IF SUCH IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE FORWARD IT PROMPTLY.

BREWSTER

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